THE International Collector

and Victor Stamp News

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Volume 2
Number 12

Editor and Publisher

Gordon H. Crouch

911 Dovercourt Rd.

TORONTO - - CANADA

Query?

Are you an artist, or inclined that way? Here is your opportunity. I want a sketch of a suitable cover design. The reading matter to be the same as shown on this cover, but, of course, rearranged. It is not necessary to give me a finished drawing merely a sketch will do. I offer you either a cash prize of $3.00 or a set of high-class stamps, value $5.00 Now then, if you can do anything in this line, now's your time.

"The International Collector"

COMBINED WITH

"The Victor Stamp News"

AND

"The Dominion Philatelist"

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

G. H. CROUCH 911 Dovercourt Road

TORONTO CANADA

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VOLUME 2 FEB. 1913 NUMBER 12

YE EDITORIAL POINT OF VIEW

Some little time ago, I received a production which is entirely new in the Philatelic World, namely, the report for 1912 and 1913, of the "Trowles' Bulletin Service," 951 Dovercourt Road, Toronto, Canada. This work is an ambitious production of 16, 6 x 9 pages, and contains a long list of that "Bete Noir" of the stamp trade, namely, "People Who Refuse to Pay the Bills."

No less than 6 pages is taken up with names and addresses and full particulars of these dead beats and the cost of the service is more than repaid in this list of stamp pikers, as it is practically a book of reference containing the greater number of the active stamp swindlers of America.

This annual report also contains articles on "How I ran down a clever fraud." "Particulars of the Lindsay Case of Ardmore, Pa.," together with some interesting facts from the report book of the "Service."

The originator and proprietor Mr. Victor A. Trowles, has an interesting account of how the "Service" was first started and also gives an exceedingly penetrative criticism of the weaknesses in the ordinary methods of of the stamp dealer and what is more to the point, gives what he considers a solution of 80 per cent. of the losses to the stamp dealer. The Editor would suggest that anyone at all interested in stamps should address a letter to Mr. Trowles at the address given above, asking for information as to his "Service."

Ye Editorial Point of View, continued.

In the Civil Service, where laxity of hours, work and holidays have been so often declared, it is something of a shock to find the conditions—apparently bordering on the sweatshop—that exist in the Post Office.

Fifteen hours a day, it is said, is not uncommon for sorters. One hundredpound loads for carriers seems to be nothing out of the ordinary.

Yet Dr. Coulter, the Deputy Postmaster General, does not deny either, but lapses into excuses. The long day, he says, is not straight work, but is necessitated by late trains, etc. No postman, he also states, need take out a heavy load without assistance if he will ask for it.

Of course. But will Dr. Coulter deny that fifteen hours spent in doing ten hours' work is an injustice? Doesn't an Ontario Act make it an offence for a railway to work its employees in just this manner?

And, incidentally, will Dr. Coulter please state just how many letter carriers, no matter how unfairly used in the matter of loads, would raise a kick to "the boss?" Like the workman who take chances on faulty scaffolds, they have wives and families to keep.

Something ought to be done, and done quickly, to make some improvement in working conditions at the Post Office. And Dr. Coulter ought to be the man to do it.

Approximately 40,000,000 parcel post packages were handled during January. At the fifty largest postoffices 19,365,433 parcels were handled in the first month of the operation of the new system, and the business of the last two weeks exceeded that of the first two weeks by more than 5,000,000 packages.

NEWFOUNDLAND "ERROR"

(By H. Hechler.)

Recently some forgeries of the Newfoundland "error" with the F., have made their appearance in the market, they are offered at a low price as an inducement to buy this rarity, the forger blotted out with chemical color the lower bar of the E., making it an F., the unwise honest collector fall the victim, to guard against this, I advise collectors in carefully examining specimens which may be offered to them, to observe the following distinguishing marks.

The "error" F instead of an E in Newfoundland, was caused by a defect or crack in the lithographing stone which runs from the upper left sloping downwards till it crosses the circular lines of the oval enclosing the portrait of King James the I., it throws the upper left hand portion of the stamps ½ millimeter out of proportion, the scroll bearing the inscription Newfoundland is broken directly between E and W, forcing the E to overlap the W on the upper left bar, and cutting off the lower portion of the E making it a normal F, further the O in the straight band over the head bearing the value one cent is all a slew leaning to the left and almost closed up, where as in the ordinary stamps, the O is broad and open, further the two lines incircling the oval of the portrait are broken and out of alinement.

If you want to assure yourself of the genuine original error, take a ruler, lay it in line between the E and W of Newfoundland diagonally to the lower label till you meet the ball of the J of James, you will strike all above distinguishing of your genuine "error."

I trust the above will commend itself to our earnest and ardent students of Philately.

THIS MEANS YOU, when answering any advertisement in this magazine kindly state "I saw your Ad. in the International Collector." This will help yourself, the advertiser and the Publisher, thank you!

"SOME NOTES ON BOLIVIA."

The 1894 issue of Bolivia as given in Scott's 1912 catalogue, comes on thin and thick paper perforated 14-½ and 13-½. Naturally this would lead one to think that the set was mixed, but such is not the case. There are two different sets. The first set is on thin paper perforated 14-½, and the second set on thick paper perforated 13-½.

The colors of the first set with perforations 14-½ are 1c - yellow bistre; 2c - red orange; 5c - yellow green; 10c - yellow brown; 20c - dark blue; 50c - dull red violet and 100c - dull rose.

The colors of the second set perforated 13-½ are 1c yellow buff; 2c - vermilion; 5c - blue green; 10c - bistre brown, 20c - slate blue; 50c - brown violet; 100c - brown rose.

While the colors of the two sets do not seem in print to differ much, yet the stamps themselves show very distinct colors. The 14-½ perforations are on the whole, the hardest to find and the hardest stamps of the set to obtain is a 100c dull rose perforated 14-½. The 100c brown rose perforated 13-½ is carried in stock by nearly every dealer, but the 100c dull rose perforated 14-½ turns up occasionally in collections and if you want to get it, you will have to hunt for it, and when you get it, you will surely have a beauty.

"J. Arthur Wainwright"

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YE PESSIMIST'S PAGE

I have wondered whether some men take up Stamp Collecting because they are married, and want a quiet hour or two, once in a while, anyway.

Silence may be golden, but, a greenback will shut a man's month just as effectively after he's helped you put over a raw deal on a collector.

A dealer said to me once that buying a collection is like choosing a wife—shut your eyes and trust to luck. Poor fellow, he must have got in bad all right.

Some Philatelists are so greedy when it comes to exchanges that they lead me to think they consider that one good trade deserves ten others.

Gas has its uses, as any long-winded man will tell you, but as an illuminant, it is "out-of-date." In this respect it resembles closely a certain party who came before us at our last Club meeting. He delivered a monologue on, "how to mount a general collection" and we're nearly all specializing here, one way or another.

Reminds me that some of the speeches we hear there at times are not much better than the "spiels" given by those street-corner fellows who sell sure cures for warts, bunions, corns and pains in the candy.

Specimens of Fossils were found at the South Pole. Showing conclusively that at least one Stamp Society and its Board of Managers must have flourished in that part of the world.

YE PAPERS RE-PRINTED

THE MAN BEHIND
By H. V. Blackburn.

There has been a lot said both in song and story about the "Man Behind the Gun," and during my lifetime I have made the acquaintance of other men behind, one in particular who was the envy of my boyhood days; and that one was the man behind the counter in the novelty store that the Foreign Stamps were sold. Strange, very strange it seemed to me; here was a man without a soul, or I supposed so, as he did not see any beauty in the colored bits of paper and used to call us boys fools because we spent our pocket money for stamps. This was a long time ago.

Here was a man behind who did not appreciate the position that fortune had placed him in. We boys used to write a sentence entitled: "Cast not thy pearls before swine;" this was by way of punishment, and we wrote it a certain number of times according to the gravity of the offence; and we came to the conclusion that in this case the motto was reversed, for here was a swine cast among pearls, and this man who despised the triangular Capes and the early issues of Europe was so unfortunate as to get sent to prison for stealing twelve penny stamps (the irony of fate) and thus lost his position in society. The last time I saw him, was about 14 years ago; he was a sandwich man for a theatre in Liverpool, England.

I have come across other men behind the stamp dealer's counter almost without souls. There is one not a thousand miles away from Niagara Falls who

does not possess a single stamp of his own, but he knows Scott's Catalogue from A to Z.

There is another man behind that I know very well. I see him every day, his name is legion, he is a nuisance to himself and everybody around him. I refer to the man behind the times. The collector who does not subscribe to—well—the International Collector, that is the man behind the door, without doubt and the wonder is that he exists at all because he has no knowledge of the day's doings in the Philatelic World; he simply lives in the past. The questions he asks are enough to distract the average man and when when you answer him, it is doubtful if he believes you, owing to the many changes which are taking place almost hourly in the world of stamps.

I came across a man not long ago, who did not see the necessity of subscribing to a stamp papers; I could not convince him that a stamp paper was necessary to a philatelist. However, I saw that a sample copy of the "I. C." got into his hands. It happened that he had some loose change at the time, and he saw two or three ads. that looked very tempting, he answered them, and the result was that he figured out that he had spent about $9.00 in stamps and had saved more on the deal than the amount of the yearly subscription; it is needless to state he became a subscriber, and nobody is louder in his praise of the stamp paper than himself. He changed from the man behind the time to man behind the information, and he knows which is the best.

In my capacity as a secretary of a philatelic society, I was once asked by what I considered a fairly intelligent man, "If stamp collecting was a remunerative hobby." My answer was, that it depended entirely how he went about it. I gave him all the pointers I knew that would help him, but the main pivot on which success was assured I pointed out, was to keep posted

be up-to-date, and to do that, was to subscribe to a good sound stamp journal. Sometimes I find my interest in stamps getting lukewarm, but my interest in the "I. C." never varies. I am impatient until I get the current copy in my hand and become master of its contents; and presently some article or even a sentence appears which arouses my interest, and once more my collection is resurrected from its corner, and for a while I am again an enthusiast with regards to surcharges, perforations, shades, etc.

A few weeks ago I was in the company of some members of a philatelic society, who were entire strangers to me, but in the course of conversation I found out that those who were the most enlightened in "stampology" were those who subscribed regularly to stamp Journals. In conclusion I would advise all stamp lovers to subscribe to a stamp journal such as the "International Collector."

I might say that I would like to receive any clippings or original articles from subscribers, pertaining to stamp matters. Your help is needed to make this magazine our magazine. I am now taking steps to put it on a solid footing and require the active assistance of my subscribers in the way of contributing bright, readable articles. As an inducement to you I make this unusual offer, as follows:- Each month I will give two prizes for the two best articles on any stamp subject. Such article to contain not more than 500 words and to be written on one side of the paper only; typewritten if possible, although this is not necessary. I guarantee that the prizes I give will consist of some of my duplicates and to be good stamps cataloging from 4c each and upwards. First prize will be $2.00 value, and Second prize $1.50 value. Here is your chance to earn some good stamps for yourself and also help me to make my magazine a success.

Flirt and the world flirts with you: marry, and you sit at home. Yes, but then you can enjoy your wife and your stamps as well.

A wise collector is one who knows a lot about stamps but can remain silent when necessary.

The Stamp Dealer who isn't well known in his own country can safely place the blame at the door of poorly-planned advertising.

It won't do you any harm, James, to remember that you don't have to be rich to be generous. So next time you sway stamps, give the other fellow a little the best of the trade. He'll like it and you will too. Try it next time.

Now and then I bump into a man who doesn't tell me the very best way of collecting, you know. And when I do, I make careful note of his address so that when I want advice I'll know just where to get it.

"I think," said Doctor Probankill,
  As around the patient's bed he pranced.
"We'll not cut into him, until
  He is a little more advanced."
The patient raised his head, and said
  "Get out! You consarned bone-inspector,
I am too poor to specialize,
  I'd rather be a mere collector."

YE KICKER'S KOLUMN

If collectors were as honest as they advise youngsters just starting out to be, heaven would be right here on earth.

Special by Wireless—"Look out for explosions—Mr. Windy-Bag is blowing up all those collectors at his Stamp Club who do not collect stamps his way. "For the love of Mike!—stick him with a pin so he will blow up himself, the old Gas-Tank.

Mail carriers on the rural routes, running out of Woodstock, have not had a pay cheque in four months,

This is scandalous. The Department ought to receive a swift kick in the tr-ra-ra-boom de-ay.

Some people put me in mind of a Collector down east—he imagines he cannot be sincere unless he's saying something disagreeable about his associates.

Of course, your way of arranging stamps is the best, isn't it?

Any collector can make a "big" collection, if he's not particular what rubbish he puts in his album. But—buy a decent stamp once in a while.

It's queer what imperfections some "Grouchy" collectors can see in a good stamp when some one else has got it and they haven't.

It takes a born diplomat to even appear interested in the gabble, gabble, gabble of a certain stamp man at meetings when he gets going about what he knows (?) about stamps.

The Turks are now pleading for the peace of Europe. I hope it'll be a mighty small piece of Europe they'll get.

WE NEED A PARCELS POST.

As the Dominion Government has a model in every civilized country there should be no difficulty about establishing an efficient parcels-post system. Express companies as privileged adjuncts of railway corporations have a strong influence that may be exerted in various ways. They have grown accustomed to the present system and find it highly profitable. It is natural that they should be adverse to a change which would transfer a large part of their business to a Governmental department. No influence other that of the railway can force a policy of inaction on the Government, although the rural merchants adverse to facilities for competition by the big retail establishments of the cities may be urged as an excuse. The fact is that rural merchants would be accorded advantages that would be fully compensatory.

The present charge of one cent an ounce on Canadian parcel business is as unreasonable and as wasteful as the excessive letter charges that marked the early days of Govermental postoffice services. Reductions in rates almost invariably increased instead of lessening net incomes. The greater volume of business more than compensated for the smaller charges. A similar result would follow the adoption of reasonable rates on parcels and the relaxation of the present maximum limit of five pounds.

The volume of business in many Canadian postoffices and over many Canadian mail routes is now so small that the increase resulting from the adoption of reasonable parcel rates would occasion but slight increases in outlay, while the enlarged use of the mails would more than make good the reductions As the matter does not require constructive statemanship or special administrative ability there can be no excuse for inaction. The reform is urgently needed.

A PROTEST.

I sold my stamps. You betcher life.
I won't collect no more.
I had a lot o' dilly ones.
Enough to start a store.
A hundred German ones, and French,
Eight Rooshians, three Hong Kong,
While in Chinese and Injin Stamps,
Gee whiz, but I was strong.

I always thought it kinda queer
That Father never said
Collectin' was a foolish task,
He ust to smile instead,
An' ast me what I had to sell
An' what I cared to buy;
Sometimes he gave me quarters with
A calculatin' eye.

One day he bought a Norway red,
And put it in my hand.
He said: "The Government is changed.
I s'pose you understand."
I answered "Yep," an' showed him stamps
'For Haakon was the King:
An' then he gave me Sixty Cents!!
I never done a thing!!!

Last week a feller stayed with us,
A man Paw ust to know.
I heard 'em talking on the lawn
Gee, they was laughin' so.
Paw said: "The boy's collectin' stamps."
(I hid behind a tree,)
"An' I encourage him, because
It learns him Goggrafee."

I sold my stamps. You betcher life.
I won't collect no more.
I'm goin' to get some guinea pigs;
I'll have about a score.
They'll never teach me anything.
—I hate them foxy ways
Of learnin' fellers Goggrafee
In Summer Holidays.

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